

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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September—October 1955

OUR NEW MISSIONARIES



PASTOR & MRS. EDWARD B. MEYER

These new Missionaries arrived in the Colony on September 9, 1955 and immediately began a schedule that took them into all the Parishes and to most of our congregations.

We extend to Pastor and Mrs. Meyer a very cordial welcome to British Guiana. We wish them good health and strength and pray that their labours might be richly blessed.

Pastor Meyer was born in South Dakota and received his early education at Salem Senior High School and Amity Senior High School, Oregon. In 1948 he went to Miland College, Nebraska and after graduation went to Central Seminary of the same State. He has led a full and active life during his school days and the experiences he gained in the various organizations in which he found interest should prove very beneficial in his work here.

Mrs. Meyer comes from a parsonage in Nebraska her parents being the Rev. and Mrs. George E. Krebs.

Pastor Meyer has been assigned to the New Amsterdam Parish and will have charge temporarily of the Lower Courantyne Parish.

THE BERBICE RIVER PARISH

PASTOR H. C. MAGALEE

MT. CARMEL, Ituni. Catechist W. A. Blair

A truly glorious weekend was experienced as the Mt. Carmel family of believers entered into the activities of October 9 & 10.

THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

These new premises, built by the efforts of the people and the free grant of \$750. from the Department of Education was now complete. Measuring 40ft. x 20ft. and, standing 7ft. off the grounds, this new structure combined the features of strength and beauty. It is built of the finest forest materials and painted white outside and green and brown inside. There is an eight foot wide platform and adequate provisions for a school library and presses for school records. The carpentry was done by Mr. Milton Lynch and Mr. Verrick Victor with some help from the people.

On Sunday morning the overflowing congregation marched into the building for the Service of Dedication. The Scriptures were read by a former pupil of the school, Mr. Aubrey Sauers and after the Pastor had commended the congregation for what they had done, Catechist Blair returned thanks, on behalf of the people, to the Church and to the Education Department.

MARTYR'S CROSS immediately after this service the thoughts of the congregation turned to fifty years ago as again they marched in procession to the strains of the hymn "For all the Saints who from their labours rest." Marching to the other end of the compound the procession halted before a gleaming white 7 foot ferro-concrete cross which stood on three tiers and a 7 foot square base railed with chain.

It was fifty years ago, August 5, 1905, that Catechist Henry Blair suffered death, as a martyr, when shot by arrows at the hands of an Akawai Indian. The late Catechist Blair began his work at Ituni about the year 1900 and was never afraid to engage the Gospel of Christ against sin. It was on this account that his assassin, Jack, put an end to his life and then fled the district.

Now, fifty years afterwards, the people of Mt. Carmel raised this memorial in testimony to the power of the Gospel. It bears witness that there are men who are willing to give their lives for it and shows its power in the lives of the Christian men and women who contributed bricks, money and labour in erecting the memorial.

The occasion was enhanced by the presence of the son of the martyred Catechist himself a staunch follower in his father's footsteps, Catechist William A. Blair and, also present, a nephew of Jack, Mr. Emmanuel Jacob. At the instructions of Catechist Blair, Mr. Jacobs was confirmed about a year ago. Now both of them stood before the Martyr's Cross - each having a different relationship thereto, yet, both of them one under the banner of the Cross.

Mr. Emmanuel Jacob unveiled the memorial tablet and Councilman Dodman Campbell read aloud the inscription thereon "Catechist Benjamin Henry Blair. Died in the Service of Christ the Lord. August 5, 1905." "Mr. Dodman Campbell continued we the people of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church proudly raise and dedicate this Cross to the memory of the late Catechist Blair and to the glory of God."

In a very moving and fitting speech Catechist W. A. Blair returned thanks to the people for so honouring his father. He said he was proud of his history and proud of the field of his present labours - he wished to carry on as his father did.

The service of blessing ended, the congregation proceeded to the Church where there was not room enough.

THE FESTIVAL OF HARVEST - Rains and pests had played havoc with the farms this year and the gifts of fruit and vegetables told the story. Nevertheless, the Church was nicely decorated and the Church furniture were gleaming bright - the work of Captain Roland Grant of the "Swan." Four infants were baptized and ten souls were presented to the Lord: Lawrence Fryer, Jonathan Reece, Jacob Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Irving Holder, Constance Holder, Marion Barkoye, Charles Barkoye, Henry Reid and Arabella Edwards.

During the service, the organist, Mrs. W. A. Blair was asked to unveil a new Estey Organ - the gift of friends in the U.S.A. Mrs. Blair, on behalf of the fine gift and recounted some of the many blessings that had come their way during the past year.

MOTION PICTURE - In the evening, the film, *Kesley of Zorvor*, was shown to a packed Church. This was the second time that the privilege of a motion picture was provided for the congregation. It was seen with wrapt attention and evoked a gift of \$10. from Mr. William Blair, Jr. for our Africa Mission Field. Mr. Blair is to be commended for his Christian love and generosity.

CRICKET Early next day a two-inning match was played between the Consumers Society and the Loggers. A few weeks before a similar game resulted in a Consumers victory but now the tables were turned. In the first inning the Loggers led by 66 runs and it seemed that it would be a two to one victory but Mr. Irving Holder held his own against the bowling and when the last wicket fell the Loggers had the victory but only by 19 runs. We saw some very good play that day. Messrs Alfred De Britton, William Blair Jr., Sam La Rose and Aubrey Sauers took the toll of wickets.

As the day ended everyone gathered in the school hall, where, under the leadership of Mrs. W. A. Blair a fine dramatic entertainment was given to mark the opening of the new school building. Old and present-day pupils took part and the audience went into roars of laughter when the "lion" (in one of the acts) came roaring down the aisle. The program began with a song by Mr. Roland Campbell and Messrs Alfred DeBritton, Lewellyn Campbell, Irving Holder, E. Samuels and Miss Venus Reid also sang in between the dialogues. Taking part in the various dialogues were Misses Edna and Aileen Edwards, Audrey Lambert, Venus and Vivet Reid, Agnes and Waveney Blair, Irene and Mabel Gomes and Messrs Ignatius Stass and Samuel La Rose. Amusing recitations were said by Leonard DePolity, Daphne Kersting, Enid Shanks and Waveney Blair. Thus ended for Mt. Carmel a full and grand weekend of activities - one in which thankful hearts gave thanks and praise to Almighty God.

STELLING AND BOND

Under the self-help Development programme, Government has offered assistance to our people for the construction of a stelling and bond. With the Consumers and Logging Societies in full operation great need is felt for these facilities. These people will contribute all the materials required which can be locally obtained, such as piling, beams, sills, etc. and Government will give galvanize sheets, hardware, paint and technical supervision. Most of the materials have already been obtained and eleven men were again going into the forests on October 13 to get the remainder.

Mt. HERMON, St. Lust. Catechist C. C. Fredericks.

The celebrations of Harvest provided a full week end of activities and resulted in splendid achievements.

At the Communion Service there were four baptisms and one candidate for confirmation - Stanley Adolph. The Church was decorated with palms and flowers and even though gifts of fruit and vegetables were not as plentiful as in past years yet the large attendances made everyone happy.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, men and women gathered to talk about the building of a stelling and bond under the Self-help development programme. The idea was received with much enthusiasm and it was decided that the Loggers would provide all the materials needed in wood and the men who were not in the Logging Society would provide labour in the construction of the stelling. The Loggers will begin work on this project immediately.

In the evening two pageants were presented - "With Thankful Hearts" and "Open eyes." These were directed by Catechist Fredericks and the presentations were superb. The school children participated in the first. They were Stanley Adolph, George Williams, Ina Bennett, Icene Thom, Joel Bennett, Percy King, Thomas James and Edisa Hartmann and the following young ladies acted in the second: Misses Audrey Williams, Beryl Douglas, Judith La Fleur, Eldica Bennett, Icene Thom, Geraldine Bennett, Esaurild James and Eileen Adolph.

Immediately after these pageants two sound films were projected "Kezli o Zor Zor" and "Faith of the Family." The Church was so crowded that there wasn't even standing room. But even in such cramped conditions everyone was most attentive and reverent.

On Monday evening an enjoyable social was held in the school hall. Families brought their own refreshments and enjoyed good fellowship and fun. Music was kindly supplied by Mr. Martin Pattoir.

A fine compliment was paid to Mt. Hermon School when in the last Inspection Report the examiner said ".... that the standard of efficiency is beyond the average of a river school." This honour, of course, falls on the shoulders of Catechist Fredericks and his staff and we congratulate them and wish them even more success!

REFORMATION, Kimbia. Catechist Kyte Ramessar: With the transfer of Layreader O. Lalljie to the Bel Air Parish, Catechist Kyte Ramessar assumed charge of this Congregation and school from the September term.

He immediately plunged into a house to house visitation and also visited the Loggers' Camps in the Haraculi Creek. His installation service, was held on September 4 and there was an attendance of 73. Vice-president of the Church Council extended a hearty welcome and in reply Catechist Ramessar pledged himself to service in every activity of the congregation, school and community.

A Penny Bank has been started and to date there is a total savings of \$104.79. Everyone is encouraged to make use of this new service.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Arthur Boyle, members of the community have launched out on a Community Self-Help Project for the building of a Stelling and Bond. The men will spend every Thursday collecting the necessary materials and as soon as these are on hand Government will provide all the hardware etc. and financial construction help. The entire project should cost around \$2000.00

The women of the Church spend a day in each week weeding the grass around the church. We thank these ladies for their good services. The services of a sexton have been dispersed with and each family cleans the church, week by week, taking turns.

The Sunday School has been reorganized and there are now three classes under Catechist, Miss S. Andrews and Miss Z. Morris. The Adult Class spends fifteen minutes in discussing the sermon preached that day and fifteen minutes in the study of Stumps' Catechism.

We regret to report the serious illness of Councilman William Morris and his hospitalization in New Amsterdam, Mr. Josiah Alexander has also been confined to bed for the past month. We solicit the prayers of the congregation on their behalf.

The Festival of Harvest was observed amidst heavy downpours of rain. Starting very early Sunday morning the rains continued, with no let up, until the time of Service. Worshippers came through the rain and the difficulties of getting to Church made the Service even more enjoyable.

In the evening the weather was fair and there was a moon. Crowds came to see moving pictures on the life of Christ.

Pastor and Mrs. Edward Meyer in the Parish. These new missionaries were our guests for four days and we were glad for the opportunity of welcoming them at most of our schools. On Friday, September 9, Pastor Meyer preached at Reformation Church and on Sunday, September 11 he preached at Mt. Hermon, St. Paul and Mt. Carmel. The prayers of the Parish are solicited for the work of these young missionaries.

GEORGETOWN PARISH

PASTOR P. G. HANSEN

CALVARY, Georgetown. On Sunday October 2nd Calvary observed its annual Harvest-Thanksgiving. God blessed us with a very wonderful day.

The Rev. Speith of the Baptist Mid-Missions spoke at the 9 a.m. service. He presented a very powerful message on Evangelism and Stewardship. Attendance at the morning service was 200. Offering \$281.28

At evening Vespers two sound films were shown. "Kezli of Zorzor" and "Education, Self-Help, and Mercy in India." Both are good films and they were well received.

Attendance at the evening service was 258. Offering \$69.96.

On Sunday October 9th 11 new members were received bringing the total to 40 new members received for the year.

EPIPHANY, Albouystown. In response to the "Great Commission," this congregation for the first time in its history engaged in an **Evangelism Week**. Services were held in the Church each night for one week. After each service, each evening, congregational members went out 'two by two' in an endeavour to win souls for Christ. As a result 71 names were added to our prospective membership list. 38 are already enlisted in our adult instruction class for church membership. The class is studying "What Every Church Member Should Know."

Stewardship is becoming more and more a part of the life of this congregation. The Church Council at a recent meeting voted to divide the Apportionment [Self-Support into twelve equal parts and pay to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in British Guiana 1/12 each month. Each month a check is sent to the Treasurer in the amount of \$43.87.

Epiphany celebrated its 17th birthday on October the 9th. At the evening service the children of the Sunday School presented a fitting program under the Directorship of Mr. Ernest Ritchie.

ST. MARY, BEL AIR.

SCHOOL. We are happy to welcome two new members to the staff of our school. Mr. David Baichan and Mr. Harry

Ramsundar. The present enrollment of the school is 246 with an average attendance of 220.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. With Deone Persaud as Superintendent and with Mr. Cecil Gopaul, Mr. David Baichan, Mr. Cedric Grannum and Miss Carmen Jettou, the Sunday School is making steady progress.

LUTHER LEAGUE. The Luther League held a farewell party for Pastor Vosseler. An appropriate gift was presented to him. Mr. Daby Persaud succeeds Mr. Roland Munro as President. There are 30 members on the roll.

BUXTON PARISH

PASTOR A. R. BOWEN

SADHU SUNDAR SINGH, Triumph. Catechist Arnold A. Kowlessar

The new and beautiful concrete Church of this congregation was dedicated on Monday 12th August last. The President of the Church The Rev. A.R. Bowen officiated. Other Pastors present were Rev. E. Gene Vosseler who served as Liturgist and the Rev. Dr. G.G. Parker Treasurer of the Church who preached a very inspiring sermon.

There was a large gathering and the entire proceedings were very impressive.

Following the act of dedication, the President explained the use of the "Swan" as a symbol of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in British Guiana.

The singing of the Hymn "O Where are Kings and Empires Now" and the pronouncement of the Benediction then brought a very wonderful and inspiring service to a close.

HOLY COMMUNION, Victoria. Catechist F.B. Miller

This Church and congregation are located at the most southerly point of this ancient village, in a very unique corner, a spot which can be considered as being in great need of the spread of the Gospel. Its economic difficulties stand permanently against it since the young people do not

take to farming but prefer to go all over in search of work.

Our Harvest Festival comes off on the 13th of November next. We are looking forward to a very successful harvest, God being our helper.

BEE HIVE Sunday School and Preaching Point

Trained Lay Reader Harry Persaud

The work at Bee Hive was founded by Catechist F.B. Miller. As time went on, it was found necessary to have a full-time worker to develop this field and Trained Lay Reader Harry Persaud was so appointed, following the completion of his course at the Lutheran Training Institute.

He was fully enjoying his task when on the 25th day of June last, he was struck with paralysis and was hospitalized. He was discharged on July 29 much improved, and he has been making steady progress since. He reports twice weekly at the Public Hospital for Electric treatment which is proving very helpful to him. It is encouraging to note how thoughtful and interested this worker is in his work although still very ill.

Catechist Miller, upon the instruction of the Pastor, is again in charge of the field and is assisted with the Sunday duties by Catechist David Ramdeholl of Non Pariel.

Mr. Persaud is on three months sick leave on the recommendation of his doctor, a very soul-stirring service was held in his home by Workers from other denominations, lead by Catechist Miller.

It is hoped that by the grace of God Lay Reader Harry Persaud will soon be restored to health.

UPPER EAST COAST DEMERARA PARISH

PASTOR F. LELAND INGALLS

Bethany, A small congregation, has busied itself with furnishing its one year old chapel. The people are to be congratulated in having made their own lecturn,

pulpit, a temporary altar, and some pews. They are in the process of giving their labor to build a bridge to span the trench, and a fence to enclose the compound. Until rice cutting time it has been their practice to meet once a week to improve the church compound. This spirit is to be commended.

Mr. Arjoon Persaud has been recently appointed to serve Bethany Church and Bethlehem Preaching Point, to replace Catechist Krishen Persaud who was transferred to St. Thomas, Lochaber. Mr. Persaud was installed on Sunday, September 4th, at which time he and his family were received. Since his arrival a Junior Luther League has been reactivated and is proceeding with an active program. Mrs. Persaud has organized a Sewing Class at Bethany.

BETHLEHEM Preaching Point Continues to grow in membership and cramped quarters for worship. The people meet in the home of one of its members and invariably is packed to capacity. On the Pastor's last visit it was so crowded that people were standing outdoors.

Augsburg School children went to Georgetown on an excursion with their headteacher and really took in the sights which ranged from an inspection of the Pepsi bottling plant, to the gardens, zoo, and museum. This point continues to grow in membership and is meeting in the school.

You will recall that Mr. Kanhai opened a cell group at **Point 3 on the Abary Creek**. This small section of the congregation meets in the home of Mr. Manroop. About ten souls live in this area which is about four miles beyond the Scheme. They are undergoing instruction and will be ready for baptism and confirmation at Harvest time.

WEST COAST BERBICE PARISH PASTOR F. LELAND INGALLS

CHRIST, Seafield One of the oldest Churches, on the West Coast, will soon begin construction of its long awaited chapel. The design of the building was completed by Mr. Carl McCowan, Architect, and is now in the hands of the Board in America for final approval.

Catechist R. D. K. Singh became head-teacher - Catechist at Seafield as of June of this year. He was transferred from the No 7-11 area of the West Coast Parish. Since his arrival the congregation has incorporated the pledge system of stewardship among its members. Two additional Parish Workers have been assigned to serve on the West Coast with residence at Kingley. **Miss Sarah Williamson** serves Christ Church and Hope Church. **Miss Dhanmat Dhanraj** serves the Advent Church area. The women have been assigned to build up the the Women's work, Sewing classes of these areas.

The Iron Boy, a power lawn mower, is a most welcome piece of equipment for the Armadale Lutheran Compound where the Pastor lives. With its arrival, something new has been added to Armadale. The lawns have been mowed and the Compound begins to take on the assemblance of a well kept look.

On October 17th at the home of one of its members in Faith Lutheran Church at Woodley Park, a Yisu Kata was performed for the people of the Bath Settlement area. This three hour service in Hindi was performed by Catechist Yisu Das of Good Shepherd, Rosignol, and Catechist O. Singh, of the Bushlot C. M. Church. Speakers on this occasion were Catechist Bachan, Miss Marianne Fague, Mr J. Masih Das and the Pastor. Catechist R.D. K. Singh acted as Chairman. The program was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sakichand, and was well attended by the Hindus of that area.

We welcome the part-time assistance of Messrs. Jaipersaud and Toteram who are supplying Resurrection and Faith Churches respectively in the absence of a resident catechist. Mr. J. Masih Das has been assisting in the weekly program of the points.

Nazareth Preaching Point has more than doubled its present confirmed membership since the first of the year. The point has set the goal of applying for congregational status at the next Church Convention. They ask your prayers that God's Holy Spirit may move the hearts of other prospective members to confess Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and that by His divine help they may achieve their goal. There is not a single person on the confirmed inactive list.

On October 25th the Luther League of Good Shepherd conducted a pre Reformation Service in the form of a candlelight vespers. The service was conducted entirely by the members. Luther's Emblem was hung above the altar with the words, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." In candlelight the service was very impressive.

ST. THOMAS LUTHERAN SCHOOL LOCHABER

"Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices."

We are indeed thankful to Almighty God for the blessings we have received at the beginning of our new school year.

First of all we are happy to welcome our Lady Missionary, Miss E. Wagner. For the first time St. Thomas is privilege to have a lady missionary. We wish her an enjoyable stay in our midst.

Secondly, we are proud to say that our faithful Catechist Mr. Paul T. Jagdhar is now in Waterloo College, Waterloo, Canada, studying for the Gospel Ministry. We wish him God's richest blessings and hope that one day he will return to us as Pastor. Our new Catechist is one of our own - Catechist Krishen Persaud. He first heard of God's love for him, when he was a pupil of this very school.

None of these brought greater joy however, than the Dedication of our new school building. For many year there was the cry for more space. Over one hundred children had to be crowded in a building built to accommodate fifty children.

The prayers of St. Thomas were answered when the Board of Foreign Missions of our Church sent us a gift of nine thousand dollars to build us a new school.

This building measures 48ft. by 32ft., standing on 10ft 3 inch reinforced concrete pillars 12 inches square on the sides of the buildings and 9ft. 10 inch reinforced concrete pillars 12 inches square in the center of the building in a manner similar to the standard Government plan for a two unit school, except that the floor is raised 12 inches at the northern end of the building to form a stage 10ft. deep.



**MR. CYRIL S. CHU BECOMES FIRST MEMBER
FROM BRITISH GUIANA
IN
LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S
MOVEMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP OF
THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA.**

On October 1954, Mr. Cyril S. Chu, the then Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in British Guiana, became a member of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship of the United Lutheran Church in America. This organization is responsible for the promotion of Stewardship throughout our Lutheran Church in the United States. It is an organization composed only of Lutheran Laymen. Membership in the organization is gained by pledging to contribute at least \$100 annually to LLM headquarters in New York.

Dr. Henry Endress, Executive Secretary of the the LLM, has informed our Stewardship office that Mr. Chu's contributions will be placed in a special fund to prepare stewardship literature for the Lutheran Church in British Guiana.

As a Church we highly commend and congratulate Mr. Chu for his genuine, tangible interest in stewardship and in the Lutheran Laymen's Movement. We trust that the example which Mr. Chu, has set will stimulate others to seek membership in this wonderful organization and thus arouse our Church to a greater stewardship consciousness.

Besides Mr. Chu's special interest in Stewardship he gives himself, unsparingly, to other activities of the Church. He became a member of Ebenezer Congregation in 1944 and served as a Councilman since 1945. He was Superintendent of the Sunday School for 6 years and serves from time to time on almost every committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

His most outstanding contribution, however, was made in the services he rendered as a member of the Executive Committee of our church. He was elected to this important committee in 1945 and remained a member, without interruption, for ten years. His remarkable memory and keen business acumen were assets that are sorely missed on the Executive. In 1953 he was elected Secretary of the Church and here again he served with efficiency and distinction.

In the fulfillment of his multifarious duties, Mr. Chu has had to sacrifice countless hours of precious time from his business but he always does so, uncomplainingly. The measure of such full co-operation is due in turn, to the co-operation he receives from his wife who assumes all the additional responsibilities of his business when he is engaged in the work of the Church. The Chu's have three fine sons: Clinton who is a junior at Wittenburg College; Aubrey, a freshman at Carthage College and Hector who works in the business. We wish Mr. Chu many more years of fruitful service in our church.

(Continued from page 7)

We are very grateful to Pastor Bowen President of our Church who performed the act of dedication. After the dedication ceremony a fine programme was presented by the Staff and Pupils of the school. The chairman for the occasion was Mr. A. N. Thomas, Headteacher of New Amsterdam Congregational School.

Through this medium we the members, staff and pupils, of St. Thomas would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Board of Foreign Missions, the Executive Committee of our Church and our faithful and devout Pastor and Manager, Dr. G. G. Parker.

Special thanks are due to the Management of Pln. Lochaber for all their assistance and help and to our many friends who brought greetings from other churches and schools.